Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion,

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion;

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length; and

a gripping member having an opening configured to receive said extended inflow tube and couple to an exterior surface of said extended inflow tube.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, further comprising a sewing ring configured to attach said gripping member to a ventricular apex of a heart.

4. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein the adapter sleeve comprises a smooth cylinder of titanium.

5. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes cylindrical grooves forming perforations on the surface of the adapter sleeve, said grooves configured to separate said adapter sleeve along said grooves.

6. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve is formed of ceramic.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a bent end.

9. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an extendable end.

10. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a rotatable end.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A ventricular assist device for a heart comprising:

a pump portion;

a sewing ring;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion;

an adapter sleeve attached to the inflow tube;

a coupling having gripping pads configured to attach said coupling to the adapter sleeve and said coupling configured to attach to said sewing ring, said sewing ring configured to attach to the ventricular apex of a heart, and the adapter sleeve is formed of a smooth cylinder of titanium, said adapter sleeve including an adjustable attachment member configured to attach the adapter sleeve to the inflow tube and configured to permit said adapter sleeve to extend and retract relative to an end of said inflow tube.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes an adjustable attachment member configured to attach said adapter sleeve to said inflow tube, said adjustable member configured to permit said adapter sleeve to extend and retract relative to an end of said inflow tube.

15. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said gripping member includes gripping pins having gripping pads, said gripping pads configured to couple to said exterior surface of said extended inflow tube.

16. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 15, wherein said gripping member includes a cylindrical ring adapted to receive said gripping pins.

17. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 16, wherein said gripping member includes a spring ring, said spring ring concentrically surrounding said cylindrical ring and configured to attach to said gripping pins at an end opposite said gripping pads.